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HOUSE BILL 2136
By Crider

SENATE BILL 3087
By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 20 and Title 68, Chapter 120, relative to school construction.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 20, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-6-2009

(a) Prior to construction of any new school building, the LEA shall submit architectural drawings or other adequate documentation to the fire marshal showing that the new school building will contain "safe spaces". "Safe spaces" are rooms or other areas designed in accordance with federal emergency management agency (FEMA) guidelines which provide reinforced earthquake / tornado resistant space adequate in size to shelter all students and school personnel normally using such building. If the state fire marshal is satisfied that the proposed design will comply with the requirements of this section, the marshal issue a certificate to the LEA to allow construction of the new building,

(b) Prior to occupancy of any new building, the LEA shall obtain a certificate of occupancy from the state fire marshal which the marshal shall issue after inspection of the new building and a determination that the building has been constructed in accordance with the approved design and contains adequate safe space.

(c) Copies of both certificates issued by the state fire marshal under subsections (a) and (b) shall be filed by the LEA with the state commissioner of education and the commissioner may withhold state capital funding to any LEA which does not comply with the provisions of this section.

(d) "New school building", as used in this section, means any separate building which will contain student instructional or activity space, such as, but not limited to, classrooms, auditoria, cafeterias, gymnasias, libraries, practice or activity rooms, or administrative offices. "New school building" also means any addition of ten (10) or more classrooms to any existing school building.

(e) The state fire marshal and the state board of education are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.